

RI Department of Environmental Management

Division of Marine Fisheries

PRE-HEARING WORKSHOP

October 29, 2018



Marine Fisheries Informational Workshop – Rules of Engagement

- RIDMF staff will provide presentation on each of the proposed regulation amendments
- Discussion will ensue upon completion of each presentation;
- Discussion should focus on:
 - Understanding of the rationale behind each of the proposed amendments;
 - Recommendations of alternatives.
- **IMPORTANT!** The workshop discussion is **not** an official public record. Please offer your preferred option(s) and comments for the public hearing record during the public hearing on November 19th
- Public comment period will be from November 2 through December 1



Workshop/Public Hearing Items

1. 2019 commercial black sea bass management
2. 2019 commercial scup management
3. 2019 commercial summer flounder management
4. 2019 commercial and recreational Tautog management



Commercial Black Sea Bass

- Summary of Stock Status.
- 2018 Rhode Island Commercial Fishery Performance.
- Division recommendations for 2019 management.



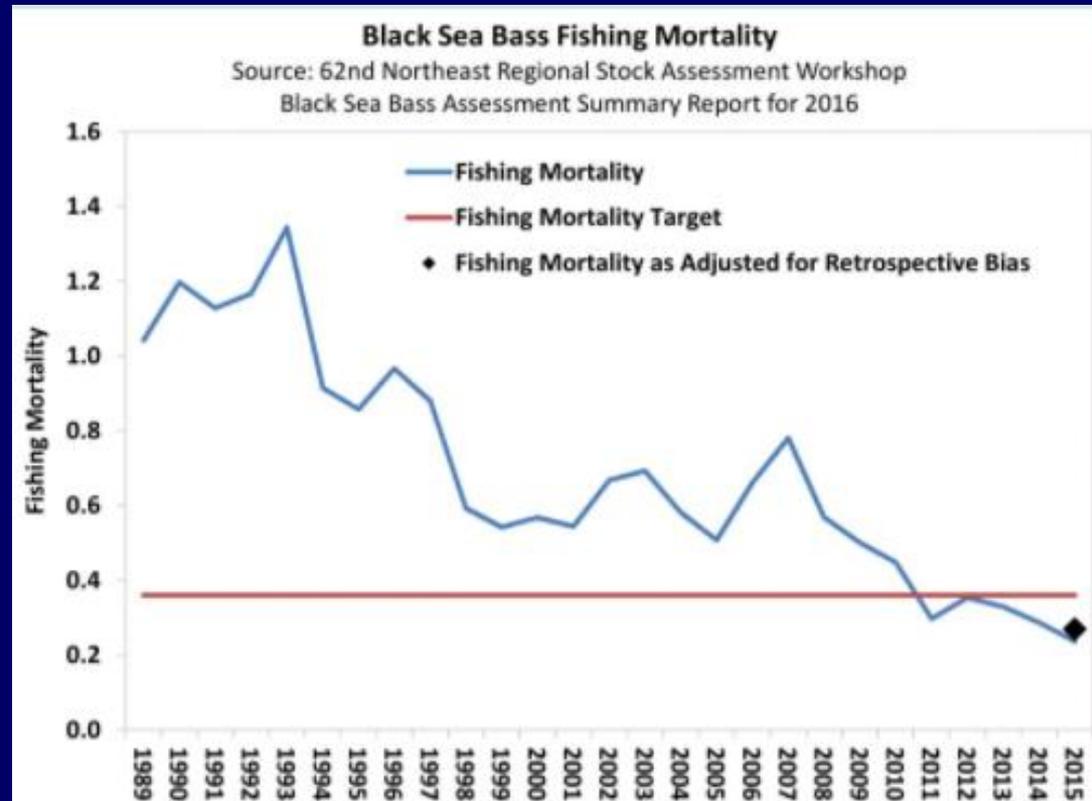
Commercial Black Sea Bass

- Stock Status:

- Benchmark Stock Assessment in 2016 .
- Black sea bass is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing relative to biological reference points.

- Fishing mortality (F) was estimated to be 0.27 in 2015, well below the threshold F reference point = 0.36.

- There is no new info since this assessment, everything based on projections.



Commercial Black Sea Bass

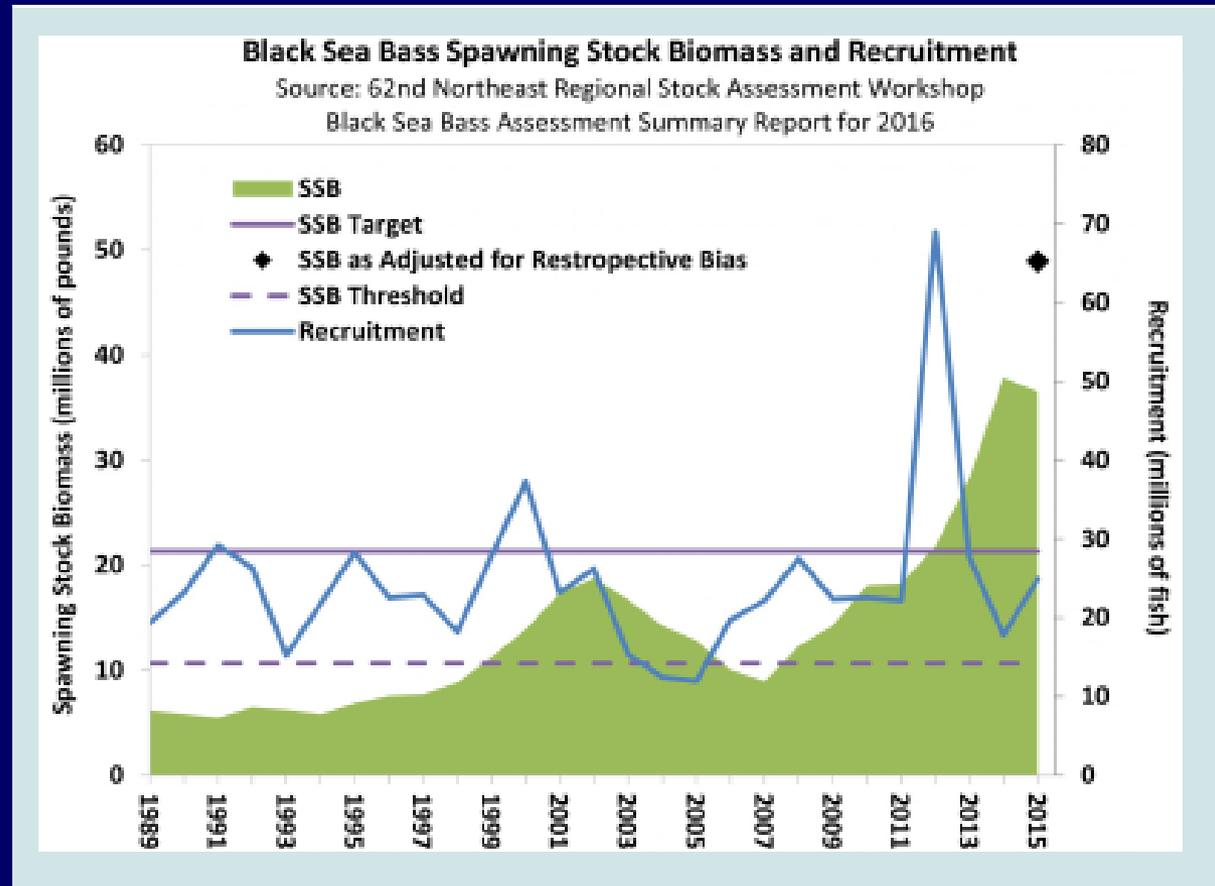
- Stock Status cont'd:

- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimated to be 48.9 m lbs in 2015, 2.3X above the SSB reference point = 21.3 m lbs.

- 2014 year class currently estimated to be \approx 24.9 million fish, around average, new info suggests strong 2015 year class.

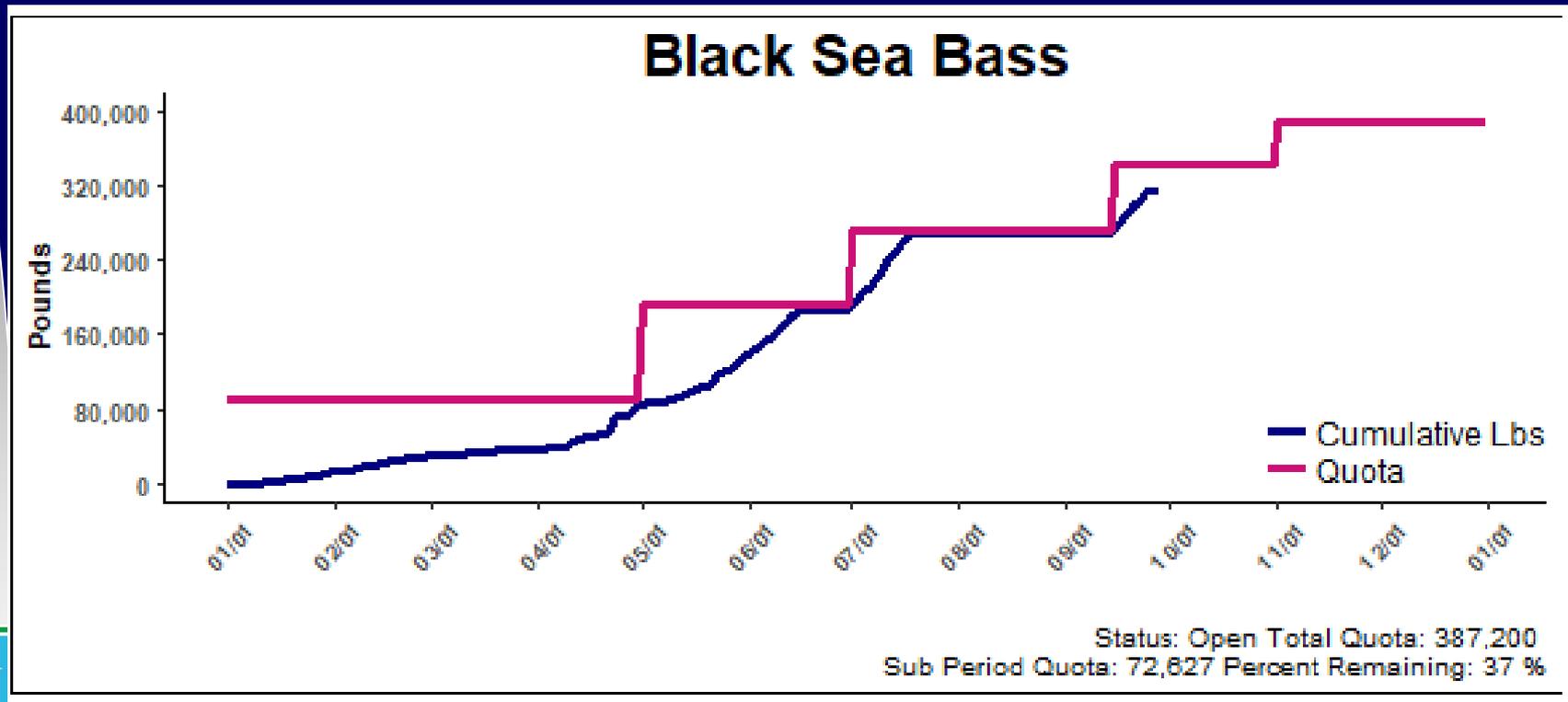
- Status quo quota expected in 2019.

- Update schedule in 2019.



Commercial Black Sea Bass

- 2018 Fishery Performance: Despite doubling the quota, still have numerous fishery closures in 2018.



Commercial Black Sea Bass

- 2019 Management:
- Option 1: Status quo/maintain 2018 management. parameters.

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Starting Poss. limit (vsl/day)
11"	Jan 1 – Apr 30	25%	500 (vsl/week)
	May 1 – June 30	25%	50 (vsl/day)
	July 1 – July 31	19.5%	50 (vsl/day)
	Aug. 1 – Sept. 14	Closed	
	Sept 15 – Oct 31	19.5%	50 (vsl/day)
	Nov 1 – Dec 31	11%	50 (vsl/day)

Note: There was an initial indication that the winter aggregate impacted catch rates, but 2017 and 2018 seasons performed well. Aggregate pilot will take place in 2019; further info forthcoming.



Commercial Scup

- Summary of Stock Status.
- 2018 Rhode Island Commercial Fishery Performance.
- Division recommendations for 2019 management.

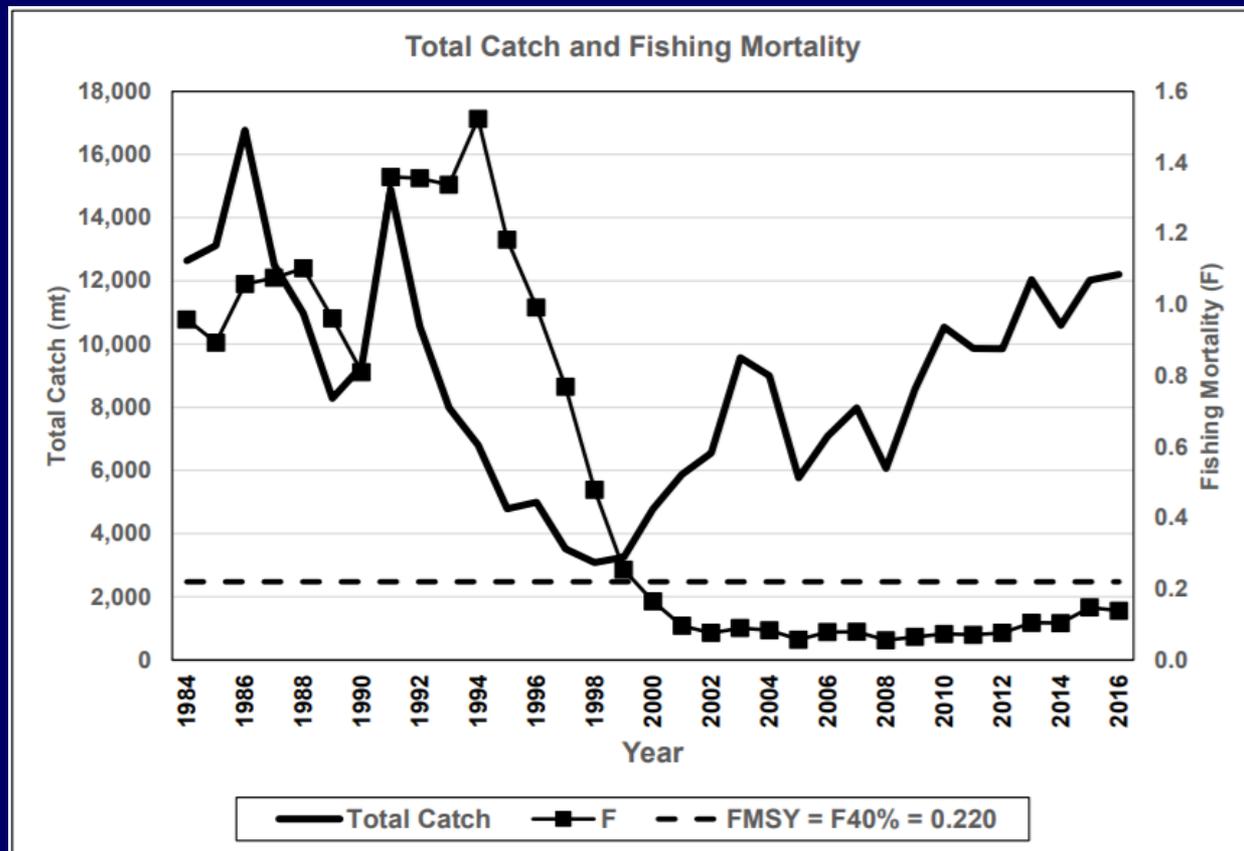


Commercial Scup

- Stock Status:

- Benchmark Assessment in 2015, assessment update in 2017.
- Scup is not overfished, nor experiencing overfishing relative to biological reference points.

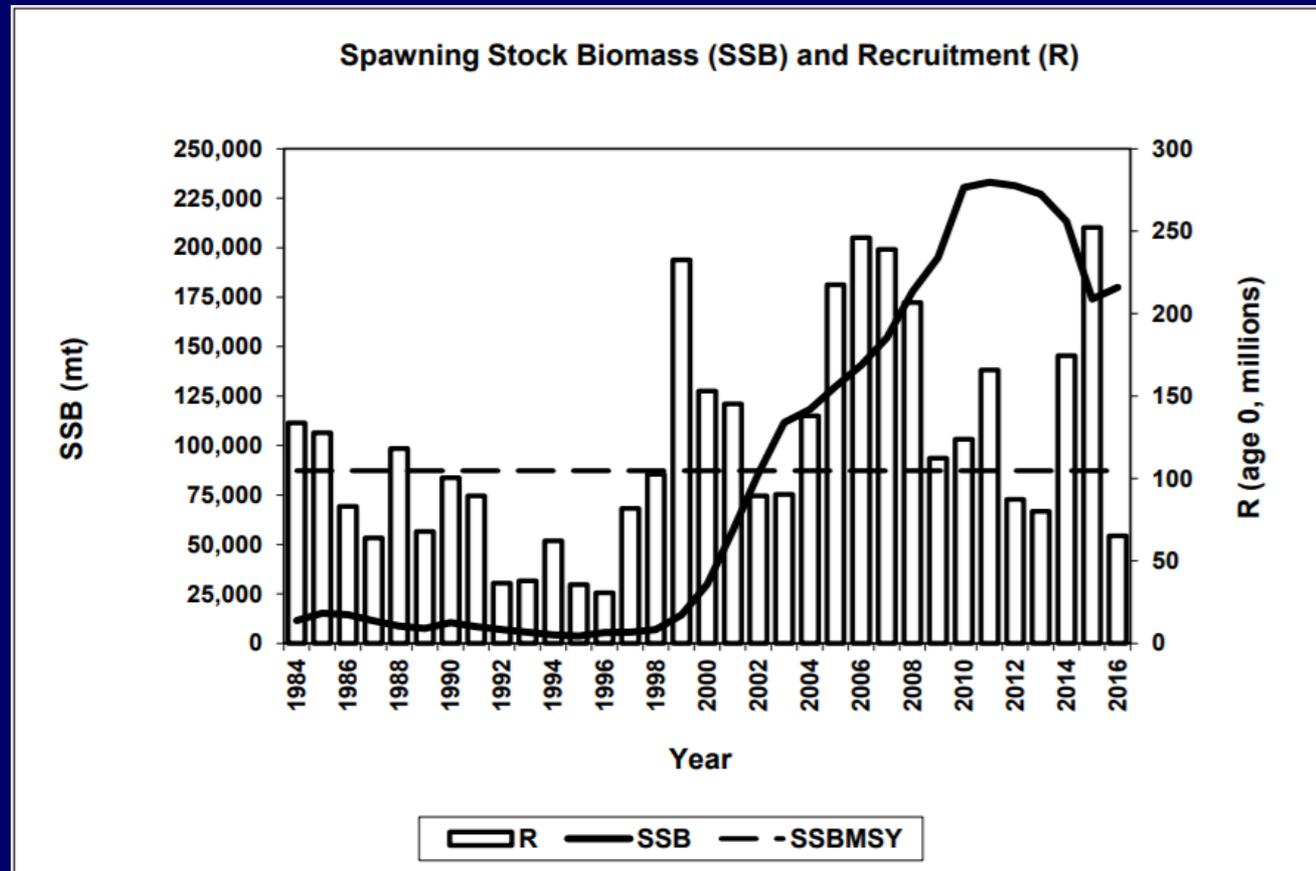
- Fishing mortality (F) was estimated to be 0.139 in 2016, below the threshold F reference point = 0.22.



Commercial Scup

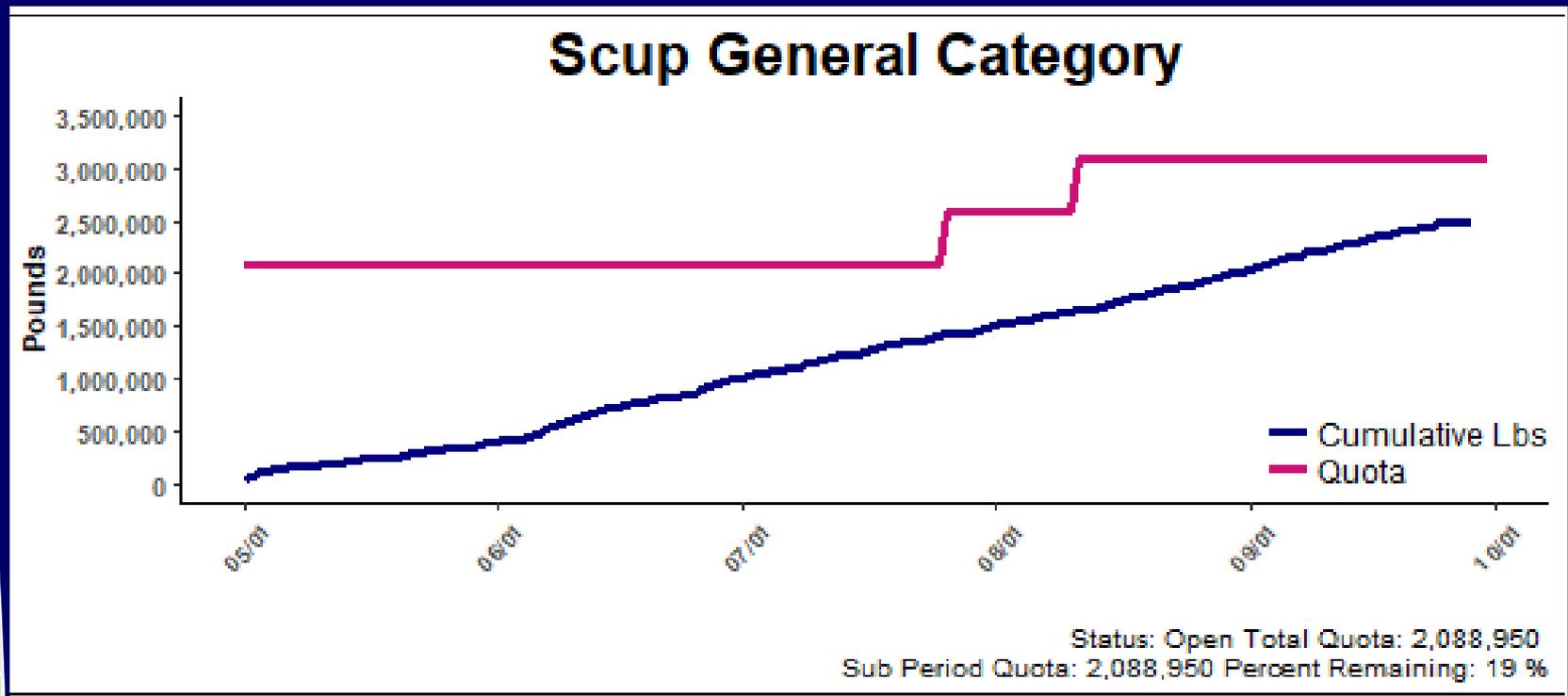
- Stock Status cont'd:

- SSB estimated to be 397 m lbs in 2016, above the SSB reference point = 192.47 m lbs and above the SSB threshold = 96.23 m lbs.
- The 2016 year class is currently estimated to be \approx 60 million fish, around average.
- Increase in quota expected in 2019.



Commercial Scup

- Fishery performance 2018: To date in 2018, no commercial fishery closures.



Commercial Scup

- 2019 Management:

Option 1: Status quo/maintain 2018 management.

Min. size	Seasons	Sub-periods	Quota	Starting Poss. limit
9"	<u>Winter I:</u> (1/1 – 4/30)		Coastwide	50,000 lbs/vsl/day
	<u>Summer – Fall:</u> (5/1 – 9/30)	Gen. Cat. Summer	40% of sub-period quota	10,000 lbs/vsl/wk
		Floating Fish Traps	60% of sub-period quota	Unlimited
	<u>Winter II:</u> (10/1 – 12/31)		Coastwide	2,000/28,500 lbs/vsl/day*

* Winter II possession limit begins at 2,000 lbs/vsl/day; change to 28,500/day after Winter I roll over calculated.



Commercial Summer flounder

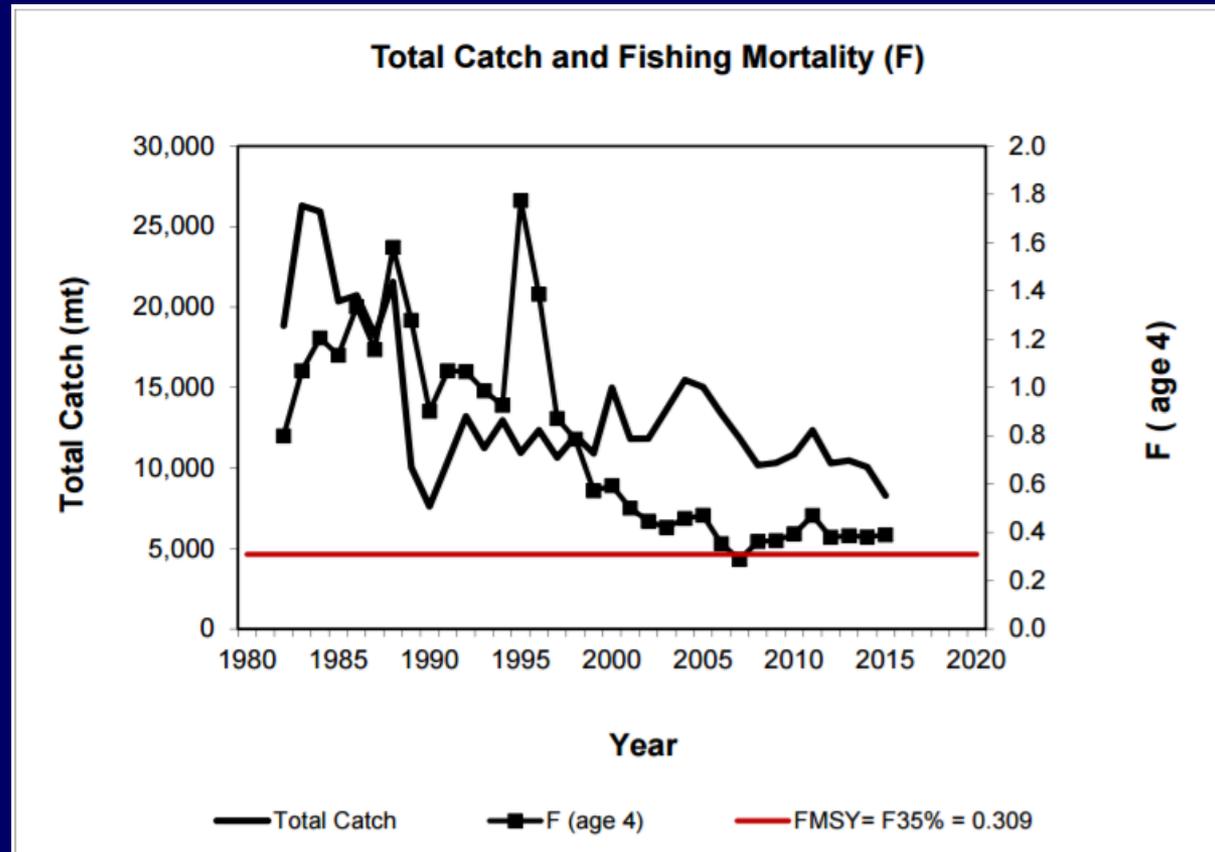
- Summary of Stock Status.
- 2018 Rhode Island Commercial Fishery Performance.
- Division recommendations for 2019 management.



Commercial Summer Flounder

• Stock Status:

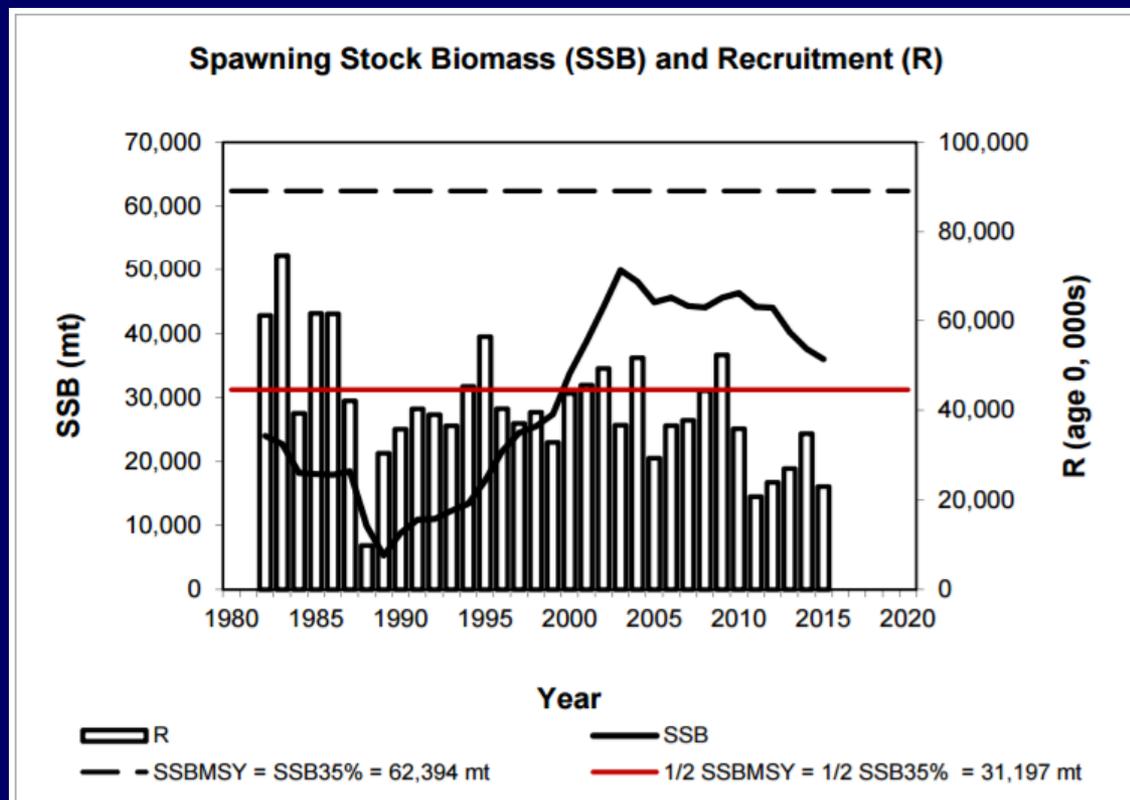
- Assessment update in 2016 based on SAW/SARC 57 assessment.
- The summer flounder stock is not overfished, but overfishing was occurring relative to biological reference points.
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.390 in 2015, above the threshold F reference point = 0.309 (also above F target = 0.255).
- Benchmark underway.



Commercial Summer Flounder

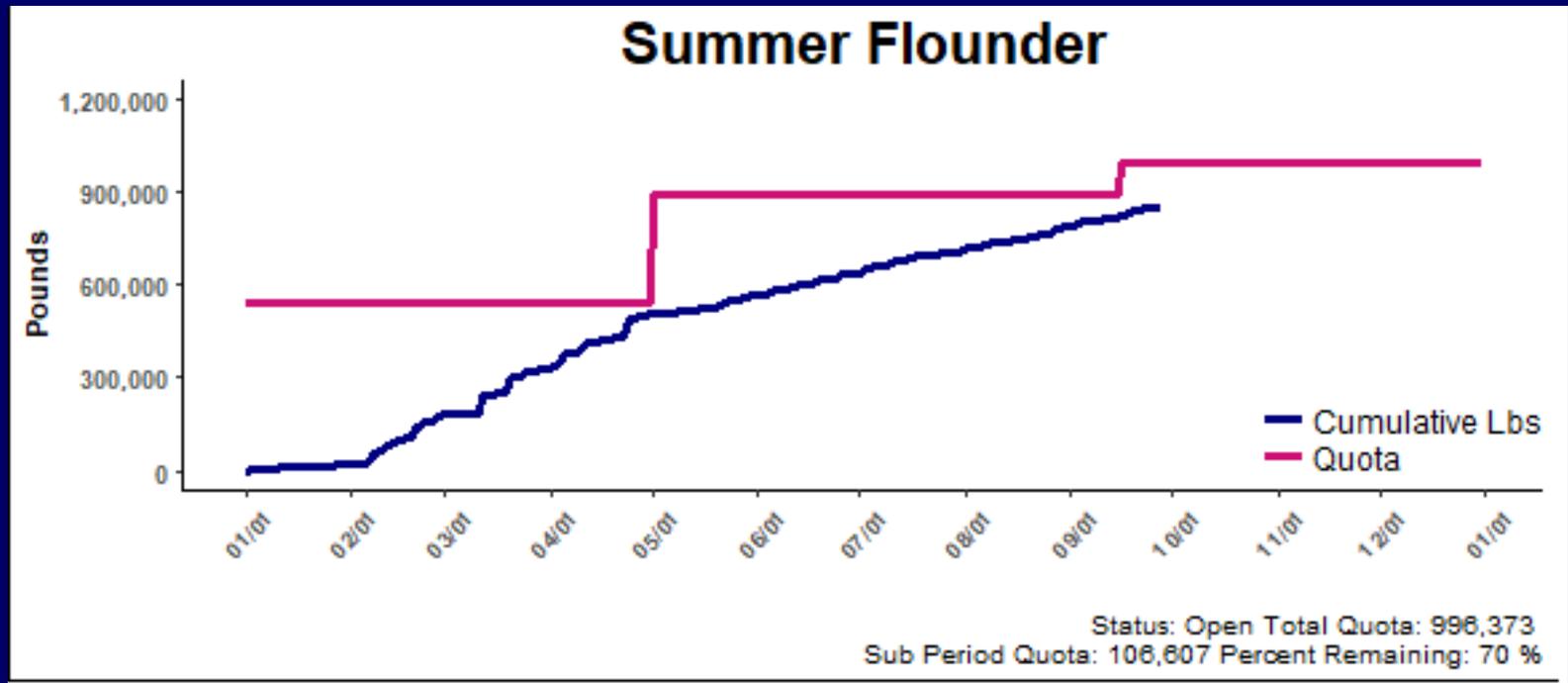
- Stock Status cont'd:

- SSB estimated to be 79.9 m lbs in 2015, below SSB reference point = 137.6 m lbs but above the SSB threshold = 66.2 m lbs.
- The 2015 year class is currently estimated to be about 23 million fish, well below the average of 41 million fish.
- Retrospective pattern in recruitment evident, the 2008 and 2009 large year classes have dropped significantly in recent updates.
- Given previous specification setting, an increase in quota is predicted for 2018, could be modified, pending assessment.



Commercial Summer Flounder

- Fishery performance 2018: No commercial fishery closures to date in 2018 (possession limit increase from 50/day to 100/day on 8/27).



Commercial Summer flounder

- 2019 Management:

Option 1: Status quo/maintain 2018 management.

Min. size	Season	Allocation	Days closed	Starting Poss. limit
9"	Winter (1/1 – 4/30)	54%	Open 7 days/wk	100 lbs/day
	Summer (5/1 – 9/15)	35%	Fri/Sat/Sun	50 lbs/day
	Fall (9/16 – 12/31)	11%	Open 7 days/wk	100 lbs/day
	2/5 – 4/30	Agg. Program	Open 7 days/wk	1,500 lbs/2 wks



Tautog

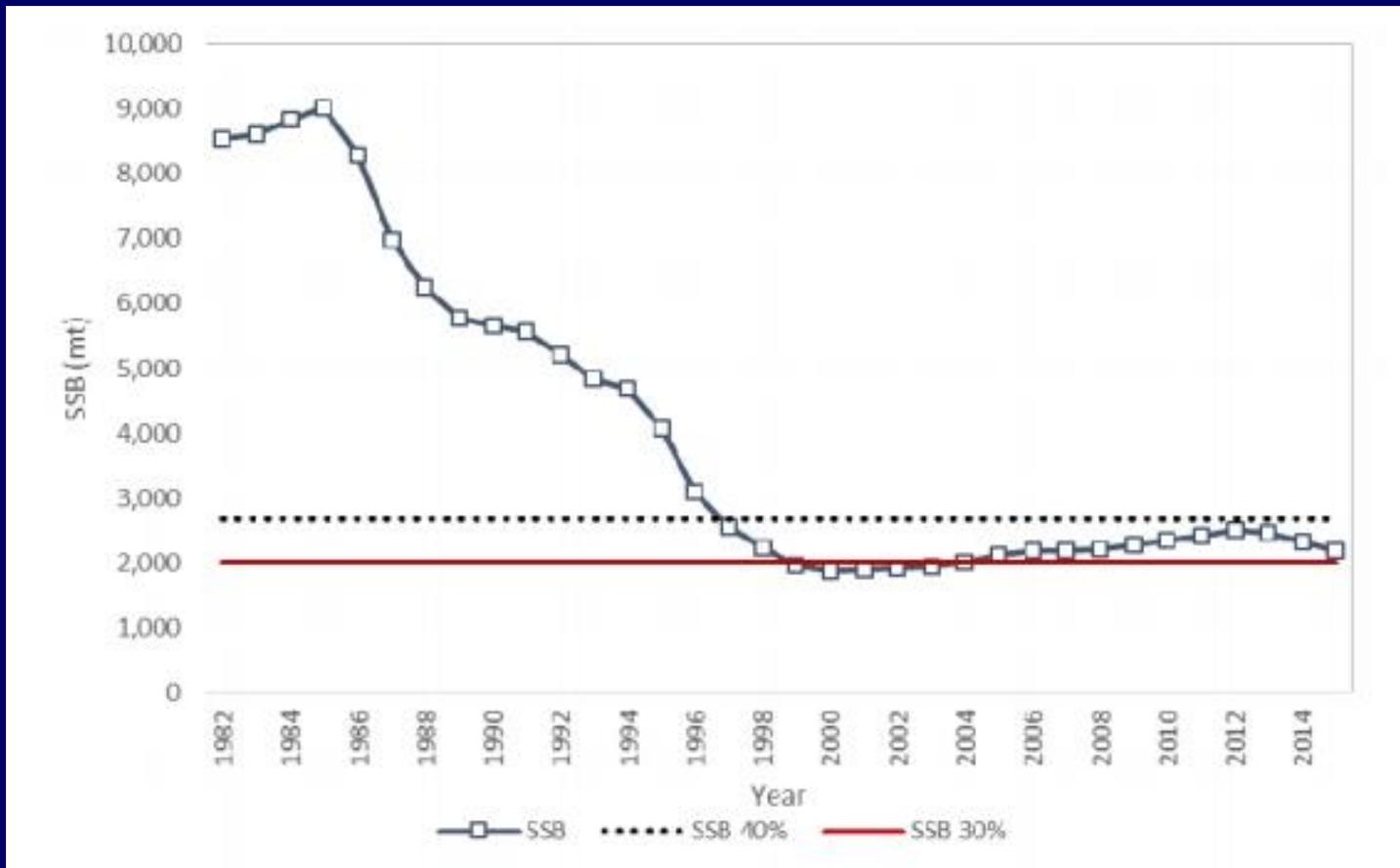
- Summary of Stock Status.
- 2018 Rhode Island Commercial Fishery Performance.
- Current Management
- Division recommendations for 2019 management.



Tautog

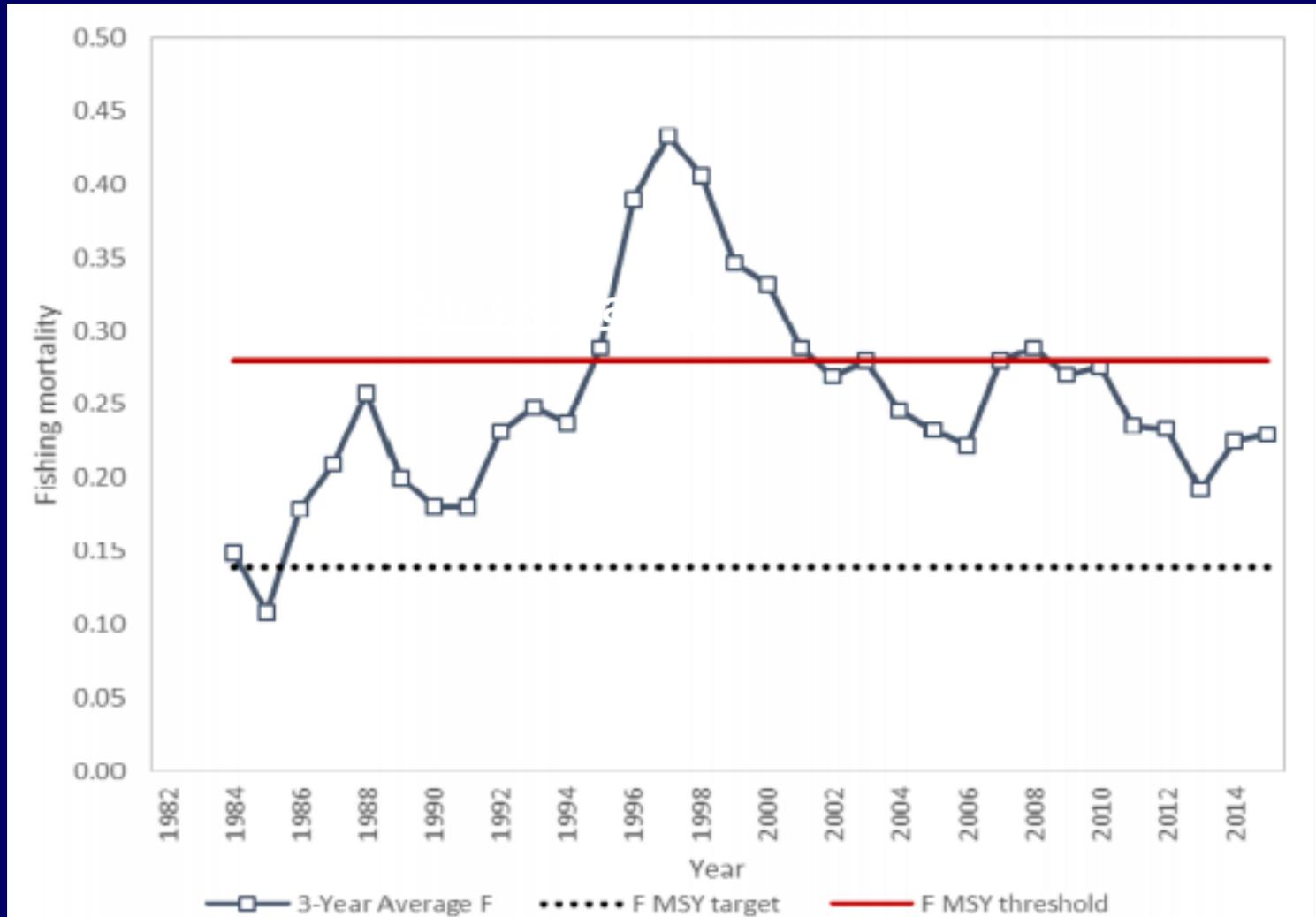
- Stock Status:

- SSB estimated at 2,196mt (target 2,684 threshold 2,004).
- SPR Reference Points approved.



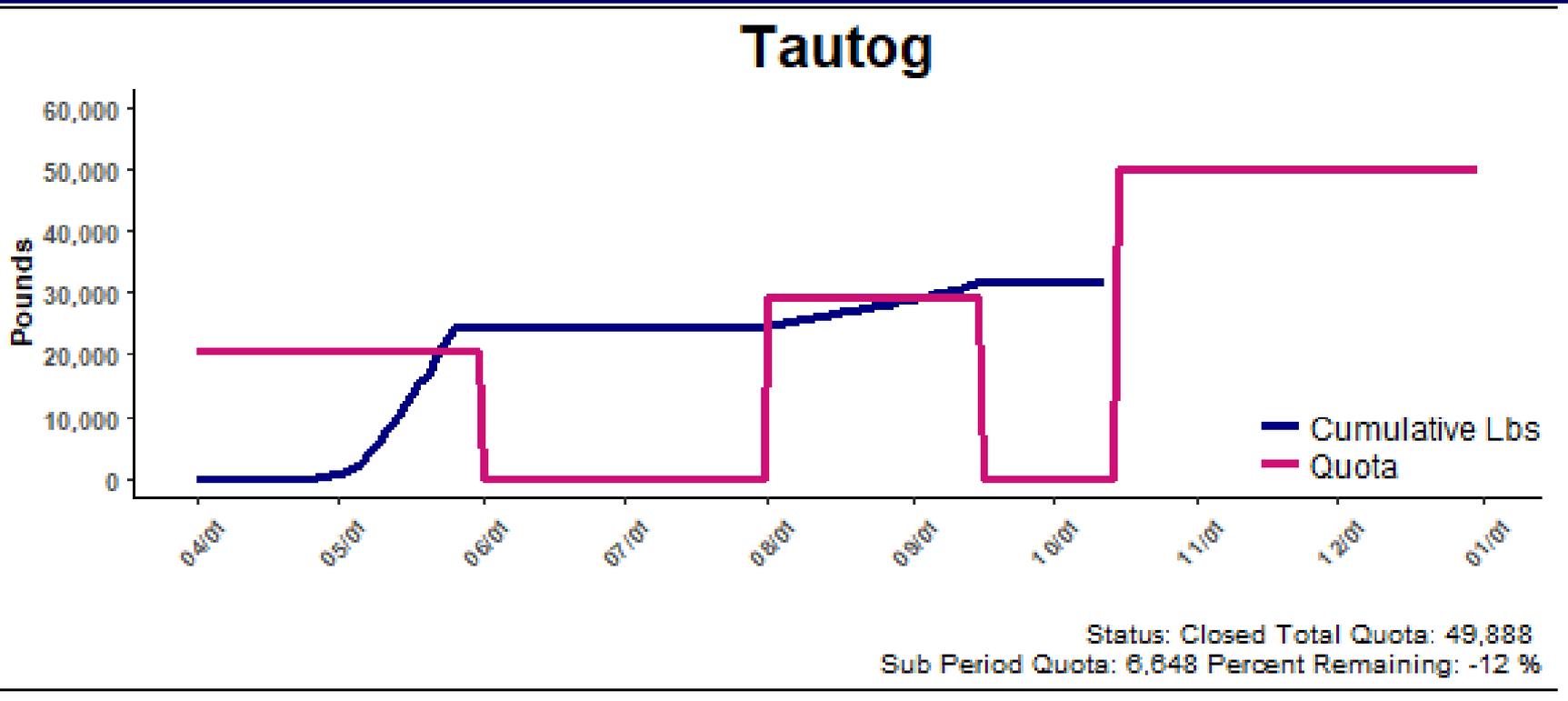
Tautog

- Stock Status cont'd:
 - F estimated at 0.23 (target 0.28 threshold 0.49)



Tautog

- Commercial Fishery Performance 2018: Early closures in each sub period to date



Tautog

- 2019 Commercial Management:

- Proposal 1: Review of management parameters (min. size, season, allocations, poss. limit).

Option 1: Status quo/maintain 2018 management.

Option	Min. Size	Season	Allocation	Possession Limit
<u>Option 1:</u> Status Quo	16"	April 1 – May 31	40%	10 fish/vsl/day
		June 1 – July 31		Closed
		Aug. 1 – Sept. 15	20%	10 fish/vsl/day
		Oct. 15 – Dec. 31	40%	10 fish/vsl/day



Tautog

- 2019 Commercial Management:
 - Proposal 2: Commercial Tagging Program
 - Result of Amendment 1 of the Tautog FMP
 - Main points: (see annotated regulations for full proposal)
 - All tautog commercially harvested in RI must be tagged at the time of harvest by the harvester
 - **Tags will be issued to RI commercially licensed fishermen eligible to participate in the fishery**
 - Tags are valid for 1 calendar year
 - **Ordering form and process to be developed**



Tautog

- 2019 Recreational Management:

Option 1: Status quo/maintain 2018 management.

Option	Min. Size	Rec. and P/C Season	Poss. Limit
<u>Option 1:</u> Status Quo	16"	April 15 – May 31:	3 fish/person/day*
		June 1 – July 31:	Closed
		Aug. 1 – 3 rd Sat. in Oct:	3 fish/person/day*
		3 rd Sat. in Oct. – Dec. 15:	6 fish/person/day* * max. 10 fish/vessel (n/a for P/C)



End of Slides!



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